

LESPEZIA ROBINEAU-DESVOIDY, 1863: PROPOSED
DESIGNATION OF A TYPE-SPECIES UNDER THE
PLENARY POWERS (DIPTERA, TACHINIDAE).
Z.N.(S.) 2234.

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The present application is intended to stabilize the generic name of one of the largest and most important genera of parasitic flies (TACHINIDAE) in the Western Hemisphere, *Lespesia* Robineau-Desvoidy, 1863: 567. In older literature, the species were referred to *Frontina* Meigen, but when that generic name was found to be misapplied, the name *Achaetoneura* Brauer and Bergenstamm, 1891, was adopted and was used in the generic revision by Webber (1930). Subsequently (Mesnil, 1950) it was found that *Lespesia*, described from France, was actually based on American material, perhaps imported with some species of American silk worm brought into France after disease had decimated the numbers of the silkworm, *Bombyx mori* (Linnaeus). *Achaetoneura* was thereupon rejected as a synonym of *Lespesia*, and this name has been used in Mesnil's generic key (1950), in the now standard revision of the genus by Beneway (1963), and in the nearctic and neotropical catalogues of Diptera (Sabrosky and Arnaud in Stone et al., 1965: Guimarães, 1971), as well as in published records and biological studies during the past 20 years. Now complications have appeared in the identification of the type species. This application is submitted under the misidentified type species rule (Article 70a).

2. The type species of *Lespesia* has been considered to be *Erycia ciliata* Macquart. The checkered history of *ciliata* may be outlined as follows:

a. *Erycia ciliata* Macquart, 1834: 294 male "Environs de Lille." This type is still in existence in the Museum at Lille and has been studied by Herting (1976: 3) (see subparagraph i).

b. *Senometopia ciliata* Macquart, 1835: 113. Male, "à Lille" The name is marked "Nob." [i.e. Macquart], which in some cases signifies a citation of one of "our" previously published names but in other cases accompanies a newly published name. The description is identical with that of 1834 except for omission of one character and slightly

different punctuation. It is accepted as a different generic combination.

c. *Senometopia ciliata* Macquart cited as a synonym of *Sturnia scutellata* Robineau-Desvoidy, 1830: Macquart, 1849: 358.

d. *Masicera scutellata* (Robineau-Desvoidy), with references to *Erycia ciliata* and *Senometopia ciliata* listed in synonymy; Macquart, 1850: 458.

e. *Lespesia ciliata* (Macq.); Robineau-Desvoidy, 1863: 569, in the first publication of *Lespesia*. Male, presumably from Saint-Sauveur, Yonne, 150 km. S.E. of Paris, although published in his work on the Diptera of the "Environs de Paris." He described a male reared at his home from a *Bombyx* sp. and stated that "Les caractères génériques ont été décrits d'après ce Mâle." He also found a female in the Museum at Paris that he believed to be the female of the species; it was labelled *Masicera ciliata* by Macquart himself, and Robineau-Desvoidy adopted the name *ciliata* and credited it to Macquart, even though he had not found the description ("je n'ai trouvé nulle part la description.").

f. *Lespesia ciliata*; Mesnil, 1950: 108. Mesnil pointed out that Robineau-Desvoidy, 1863, had incorrectly identified his male specimen as *ciliata* Macquart, and that his male - which Mesnil called "Typus" - agreed with the type of the American *Achaetoneura hesperus* Brauer and Bergenstamm, 1891: 334 (30), (Vienna Museum), considered by Webber (1930) - and still considered - a synonym of *A. frenchii* (Williston) (1899: 1923). Mesnil therefore adopted *Lespesia* in place of *Achaetoneura*.

g. *Lespesia ciliata* (Macquart) (syn. *Achaetoneura samiae* Webber, 1930: 15); Beneway, 1963: 644. Beneway's revision is currently the standard one for this difficult genus. The synonymy was based on examination by G.W. Byers of the male [reared by Robineau-Desvoidy] erroneously considered to be the type of *Erycia ciliata* Macquart. The male genitalia were not then examined, however, but subsequently Paul H. Arnaud, Jr. dissected the specimen and found that it belongs to a different species, that recognized by Beneway as *L. datanarum* (Townsend) (1892: 287).

h. Herting (1974: 16) reviewed the relevant specimens during his revision of the palaearctic tachinids described by Robineau-Desvoidy and Macquart, with the following results:
male (actual basis of *Lespesia*) = *L. datanarum* (Townsend), according to Arnaud from examination of the male genitalia.

female (labelled *Masicera ciliata* by Macquart, see note 2e) = *Sturmia bella* (Meigen, 1824).

true *ciliata* Macquart = *Sturmia scutellata* Robineau-Desvoidy (referred by some authors to *Blepharipa* Rondani, 1856, as a segregate from *Sturmia*).

i. Herting (1976: 3) further revised the palaeartic TACHINIDAE described by Macquart and noted again that the true type male of *Erycia ciliata* Macquart is *Sturmia scutellata*, which he synonymized with *Sturmia pratensis* (Meigen).

j. The male genitalia figured as *L. datanarum* by Beneway (1963) and agreeing with those of the male called *L. ciliata* by Robineau-Desvoidy, are unique in the genus and are easily recognized as the genitalia of *L. anisotae* (Webber) (1930: 13), which Beneway synonymized under *datanarum*. Unfortunately, males reared from *Datana* have distinctly different male genitalia. It is possible that *anisotae* might also attack *Datana*, at least on occasion, but the holotype of *datanarum* is a female, and thus far I have been unable to distinguish females of *datanarum* and *anisotae*. It seems best, therefore, to record the misidentified *ciliata* as *anisotae*, which may or may not prove to be equal to *datanarum*.

3. It is far clearer than in most cases that the characters of the genus *Lespesia* were drawn from a particular specimen, the male reared by Robineau-Desvoidy. This specimen was said to be *ciliata* Macquart, the name adopted from a female in the Museum at Paris labelled *Masicera ciliata* Macquart and presumed to be the female of the species. If this had been only a manuscript name, the species could justifiably be cited as *L. ciliata* Robineau-Desvoidy, but unfortunately the combination with *Masicera* was one of several different generic combinations for the original *Erycia ciliata* Macquart. I can only conclude that *Lespesia* is based on *L. ciliata* (Macquart), but misidentified by Robineau-Desvoidy.

4. Two alternatives can be considered:

a. To accept *ciliata* Macquart as type-species of *Lespesia*, in which case *Lespesia*, 1863, would fall as a junior synonym of *Sturmia* Robineau-Desvoidy, 1830, or of *Blepharipa* Rondani, 1856, for those authors who recognize the latter as distinct from *Sturmia*.

b. To accept as type species of *Lespesia*, by use of the plenary powers, the species misidentified as *ciliata* Macquart, i.e., *anisotae* (Webber), which is the species on which *Lespesia* was based.

5. Choice of the first alternative would upset *Lespesia* and require return to the use of *Achaetoneura*, but the name *Lespesia* has now become well established in the American literature, even though in relatively recent times as pointed out in the opening paragraph. There would be no effect in the palaeartic literature, as both *Lespesia* and *ciliata* would be junior synonyms. Choice of the second alternative would preserve the status quo by conserving the now well-established name *Lespesia*. Again there would be no effect in the palaeartic literature. On balance, choice of the second alternative is most desirable.

6. Accordingly the International Commission is requested to take the following actions:-

- (1) under the plenary powers, to designate as type species of *Lespesia* Robineau-Desvoidy, 1863, *Achaetoneura anisotae* Webber, 1930;
- (2) To place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the generic name *Lespesia* Robineau-Desvoidy, 1863 (gender: feminine), type species, *Achaetoneura anisotae* Webber, 1930, by designation under the plenary powers in (1) of this paragraph; and
- (3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology *anisotae* Webber, 1930, as published in the binomen *Achaetoneura anisotae* (type species of *Lespesia* Robineau-Desvoidy, 1863).

7. This application has been reviewed by and is supported by Paul H. Arnaud, Jr. (San Francisco, Calif.), J.H. Guimarães (São Paulo, Brazil), and D.M. Wood (Ottawa, Canada).

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